

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Demarr Property Inventory Number: CH-812
Demarr Road, 0.4 miles south of intersection
Address: of Demarr Road and St. Charles Parkway City: White Plains vicinity Zip Code: 20695
County: Charles County USGS Topographic Map: La Plata
Owner: Paul C. and Beverly R. Demarr Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 12 Tax Map Number: 24 Tax Account ID Number: 032974
Project: St. Charles Parkway Extension Agency: _____
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ No

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ Yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Demarr property is located at the end of Demarr Road, approximately 0.4 miles from the intersection with St. Charles Parkway in Charles County, Maryland. The property comprises a dwelling and two agricultural outbuildings. The setting of St. Charles Parkway is rural with minimal development. Stands of mature trees are located at the intersection of Demarr Road and St. Charles Parkway. The White Springs Regional Park is adjacent to the property. The hard-packed dirt Demarr Road also is partially paved. Fewer than a half dozen late-twentieth century dwellings are recessed from the east side of Demarr Road. According to the current property owner, these houses are the residences of members of the Demarr family. The setting of the surveyed property consists of 0.1 acres containing a dwelling and two outbuildings. Fallow fields, overgrown foliage, debris, and abandoned vehicles characterize the site.

Dwelling

A ca. 1920 dwelling is located at the end of Demarr Road. The wood-frame dwelling faces north. The building integrates an original principal block and a late-twentieth century addition. The two-story, three-bay-by-one-bay principal block occupies a rectangular plan. The principal block rests on a poured-concrete foundation, which is visible on the west elevation, and terminates in a hipped roof sheathed in pressed tin. A gable peak with a vent is centered on the north (front) elevation. The roof features an off-center, concrete-block chimney. A full-width porch that wraps around to the east elevation defines the north elevation. A one-and-a-half-story addition was constructed on the south (rear) elevation of the principal block.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

John T. [Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

5/20/05
Date
5/26/05
Date

200500912

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

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The principal block is clad in wood clapboard and asbestos siding. The north elevation is three bays. Windows on the north elevation are one-over-one-light, double-hung sash units. Vinyl storm windows cover the windows. The windows in the first floor central bay are paired. A four-panel, two-light, metal replacement door is located in the west end of the north elevation. The five-bay front porch features a shed roof sheathed in standing seam metal supported by square wood posts. A wood balustrade with square wood balusters is present on the east end of the porch. The porch floor is poured concrete.

A one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located on the second floor of the east elevation of the principal block. A vinyl storm window was installed over the window. Cement fiberboard siding was installed on the second floor. The porch, which extends to the east elevation, is partially enclosed with plywood and cement fiberboard. Portions of the siding are missing. A one-over-one-light, vinyl window is located on the south elevation of the enclosed porch. A nine-light wood door provides access to the enclosed porch. The west elevation of the principal block is clad in wood clapboards and asbestos siding. A six-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash window is found at the first floor. The second-floor window is a one, one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash unit.

A late-twentieth century, one-and-a-half story addition extends from the south (rear) elevation of the principal block. The addition rests on a concrete-block foundation. The first floor is cantilevered over the basement level. The addition terminates in a front gable roof sheathed in corrugated metal. The addition is clad in plywood on the east and south elevations. Cement fiberboard siding is applied over plywood on the west elevation. The east elevation is clad in unfinished plywood. Three openings define the addition's east elevation. An off-center metal door is located next to a one-over-one-light, double-hung, vinyl sash window. A smaller, one-over-one-light, double-hung, vinyl sash window is located at the south end of the elevation.

A change in grade results in a partially exposed basement on the south elevation of the addition. The basement level has three regularly spaced openings; the bays are open. A one-over-one-light, double-hung, vinyl sash window is found in the east end of the first floor. A sliding tract door is found on the west end of the addition's south elevation. A louvered vent is located in the gable. The west elevation of the addition consists of two, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows.

Barn

An early twentieth century, wood-frame barn is located south of the dwelling. A dirt tract leads from the dwelling to the barn; debris including, overgrown brush and snow surround the building. Poured-concrete piers support the barn. The majority of the barn's gable roof is collapsed. Parts of the roof on the south elevation are intact and are sheathed in corrugated metal. The exterior walls of the barn are clad in six-inch vertical wood boards on the east, west, and parts of the south elevations. No cladding is present on the north elevation; the framing is visible. Door openings are located in the west and east elevations; the doors are not present. The rear (south) elevation had sliding tract doors; the hardware remains.

Corn crib

An early twentieth century, wood-frame corn crib is located north of the dwelling. The building rests on poured-concrete piers and faces east. The building terminates in a front-gable roof that is sheathed in standing-seam metal. The building is clad in six-inch vertical wood boards. A vertical-board door is found in the east elevation. A square opening is located in the south corner of the west elevation; no sash or door is present. Three openings of various sizes are located in the south elevation; each opening is covered in plywood. Vines cover the north elevation.

Property history

Deed research indicates the dwelling on the Demarr property was built between 1891 and 1936, when the property was owned by the Robey family. Samuel H. Robey Jr. received the property, along with a feather bed and furniture, as a bequest from his father, Samuel H. Robey in 1891. According to the will, Samuel H. Robey Jr.'s son, Mason F., was to receive the property when his father died (Charles County Wills 1891: MT18:411). A 1936 deed indicated that Mason F. Robey owned the property at the time of his death in 1933 (Charles County Land Records 1936 WMA 64:189). A real estate inventory of Mason's estate described the property as "improved by a 6-room dwelling home," and containing two barns, a stable, and other outbuildings (Charles County real estate inventories 1933:593).

Although the Robeys had a long historical association in Charles County, little historical information is recorded about Samuel H. Robey and his son and grandson. In addition, Samuel and Mason appear to have been common family names. Census

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records indicate that Samuel H. Robey Sr. and Jr. were farmers in 1870 and 1900; Mason F. was a house carpenter during the first decades of the twentieth century. In 1887, a man named Samuel H. Robey was a trustee for Public School 4 in District 6 (Wearmouth 1998:92).

After Mason F. Robey died in 1933, the 102-acre property transferred to James C. Mitchell in August 1936, so that he could convey the land to two other Robey family members (Charles County Land Records 1936 WMA 64:189). Mitchell conveyed the land in November 1936 (Charles County Land Records 1936 WMA 64:191). Five years later, Mitchell and F. DeSales Mudd were appointed trustees in an equity case involving the Robey family. As a result of the court action, 102 acres were awarded to Claude L. and Irene E. Demarr (Charles County Land Records 1941 WMA 74:595). The portion of the property containing the survey area, totaling 34.529 acres, remains in the Demarr family. Census records are unavailable for the period after the house transferred out of Robey ownership.

A review of the 1892 edition of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map completed in 1890 does not depict any buildings in the vicinity of the property.* The 1913 edition of the culture revised 1900 and 1911 USGS map depicts a building in the general vicinity of the property. Map research, the architectural style and design of the dwelling, and deed research suggests that dwelling was constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Conversations with the current property owner support an early twentieth century construction date. The current property owner moved into the dwelling in 1941. At the time, the dwelling was approximately twenty years old. Mr. Demarr recounted that family members had been born in the dwelling. The more than 100 acres associated with the dwelling have been sold to other family members (Demarr, personal communication, 9 March 2005).

Early Twentieth Century Architecture in Charles County

The Demarr farmhouse is an example of the folk Victorian period architectural style. Simplified ornamentation applied to simple folk house forms characterizes the style. Ornamentation usually evokes Italianate or Queen Anne decorative detailing. Decorative elements generally are found at the cornice line and the porch. Folk Victorian period design has been distinguished from high-style architectural design of the period in its emphasis on ornamentation applied to simple buildings of regular scale, mass, and proportion. The integration of plan, irregular massing, and attenuated scale generally associated with high style architecture of the period generally is absent in folk forms (McAlester 1988:309, 310).

The three-bay, two-story, center-passage dwelling with decorative center gable was popular in Charles County and throughout Maryland between 1865 and 1920. Generally, dwellings of this type were single-pile deep with a hipped-roof, full-width porch (Currey 2001:19). Ells forming a T or L-plan were common (Currey 2001:19). These modest dwellings employed minimum Victorian-period ornamentation (Currey 2001:19). The Demarr dwelling employs a shed porch roof rather than a hipped roof. An ell might have been present prior to the construction of the late twentieth-century rear addition.

Thematic Context: Regional Agricultural Practices during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Charles County has remained rural well into the twentieth century. Tobacco was Charles County's dominant agricultural product from the colonial period through the twentieth century. The Civil War and the abolition of slavery impacted the economy of Charles County well into the twentieth century. Farm production shifted from prosperous plantations to smaller owner-occupied or tenant farms as a result of the social restructuring that occurred after the Civil War. The architecture of the period reflects the depressed economy in the number of modest vernacular dwellings lacking architectural elaboration.

Between 1870 and 1930, Charles County experienced minimal economic and population growth. From 1870 to 1930, the population fluctuated between 15,000 and 18,500 residents. Census records document an overall decrease in agricultural land in the county. At the same time, however, there was an increase in the number of farms, but a decrease in average farm size. In 1880, 83 per cent of the county's land was in agriculture. This was the highest percentage of agricultural land between 1860 and 1930. By 1930, 69 per cent of Charles County was devoted to agriculture. In 1870, 493 farms were reported in Charles County; the average farm comprised approximately 342 acres. By 1930, 1,507 farms with an average size of 136 acres were reported in the census (Wesler et al. 1981:130-136).

Tobacco production decreased in the years following the Civil War. Production did not increase until the end of nineteenth century. The amount of tobacco reported as grown in 1880 and 1900 rebounded to over 5 million pounds. Although more pounds

* The USGS maps of that era depicted little in the way of buildings.

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Continuation Sheet No. 3

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of tobacco were grown during the last decades of the nineteenth century, the price of tobacco remained depressed. In 1910 and in 1920, over 3 million pounds of tobacco were raised. In 1930, over 4.2 million pounds of tobacco were raised and the price of tobacco increased to make tobacco growing profitable (Wesler et al. 1981; Bowie 1947). Between 1900 and 1930, Charles County's tobacco output represented between 19 and 22 per cent of tobacco grown in the state of Maryland.

Between 1900 and 1930, agricultural diversification in Charles County remained minimal. The recorded value of slaughtered animals, dairy products, and orchard products remained under \$100,000 throughout this period. The value of poultry spiked at over \$115,000 in 1920, but dropped to below \$63,000 in 1930.

Land in agricultural use began to decline following World War II. By 1950, the amount of county land in agriculture continued to decrease. By 1958, 70 per cent of the land area of Charles County was timbered, and timber products ranked second to tobacco for farm incomes (Klapthor and Brown 1958:161). The 1950 census recorded 1,576 farms in the county. In 2002, 418 farms were operated in Charles County, occupying 52,000 acres (U.S. Agricultural Census 2002).

Currently, Charles County is changing rapidly from a rural to suburban environment. Farmers comprise only a small minority of the county's population, and relatively few late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century family farmsteads remain intact in the region. Although the number of residents earning their income from agriculture dropped from 32 per cent in 1940 to 3 per cent in 1970 (Camp 1977:49), Charles County remained the second highest tobacco-producing county in the state during the 1980s (Baltimore Sun 1988:19).

Evaluation

The Demarr property is an example of an early twentieth century vernacular house and outbuildings that have been modified since their construction. While suggesting general trends in domestic construction in Charles County during the period, the house does not retain integrity or possess the characteristics necessary to embody a type, period, or method of construction. The complex of buildings including the ca. 1920 dwelling, and the early-twentieth century barn and corn crib, does not represent an event important to local, state, or national history (Criterion A). Research to date has not yielded information regarding an association with a person significant in the past (Criterion B). The dwelling does not retain any characteristics of Victorian era folk design. In addition, the dwelling has undergone significant alteration through the construction of a large addition and the use of inappropriate materials. These alterations have diminished the building's historic appearance and integrity. The collection of outbuildings does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction of buildings constructed during the early-twentieth century (Criterion C). The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield information important to prehistory or history (Criterion D).

Works Cited

Baltimore Sun

1988 *Maryland Business Almanac*. The Baltimore Sun Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn

1947 *Across the Years in Prince George's County*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

Camp, Sharon L.

1977 *Modernization: Threat to Community Politics, Political Intermediaries in Charles County, Maryland*. Ph.D. dissertation, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Charles County land records, wills, real estate inventories available at Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Currey, Cathy

2001 *Final Survey Report. Phase II, Charles County Historic Sites Survey*. Prepared for the Charles County Department of Planning & Growth Management. La Plata, Maryland.

Demarr, Paul

2005 Personal communication. 9 March.

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 4

CH-812

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Paul Dennis Brown

1958 *The History of Charles County, Maryland, Written in its Tercentenary Year of 1958*. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., La Plata, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee

1988 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York.

United States Department of Agriculture

n.d. "2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile, Charles, Maryland". Available from <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/md/index.htm>. Visited on 14 March 2005.

Wearmouth, John M.

1988 *La Plata Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years the Heart of Charles County*. Town of La Plata, Maryland.

Wesler, Kit, Dennis J. Pogue, Alvin H. Luckenbach, Gordon J. Fine, Patricia A. Sternheimer, and E. Glyn Fergusson

1981 *The M/DOT Archeological Resources Survey, Volume 2: Western Shore*. Prepared for the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Board of Public Works

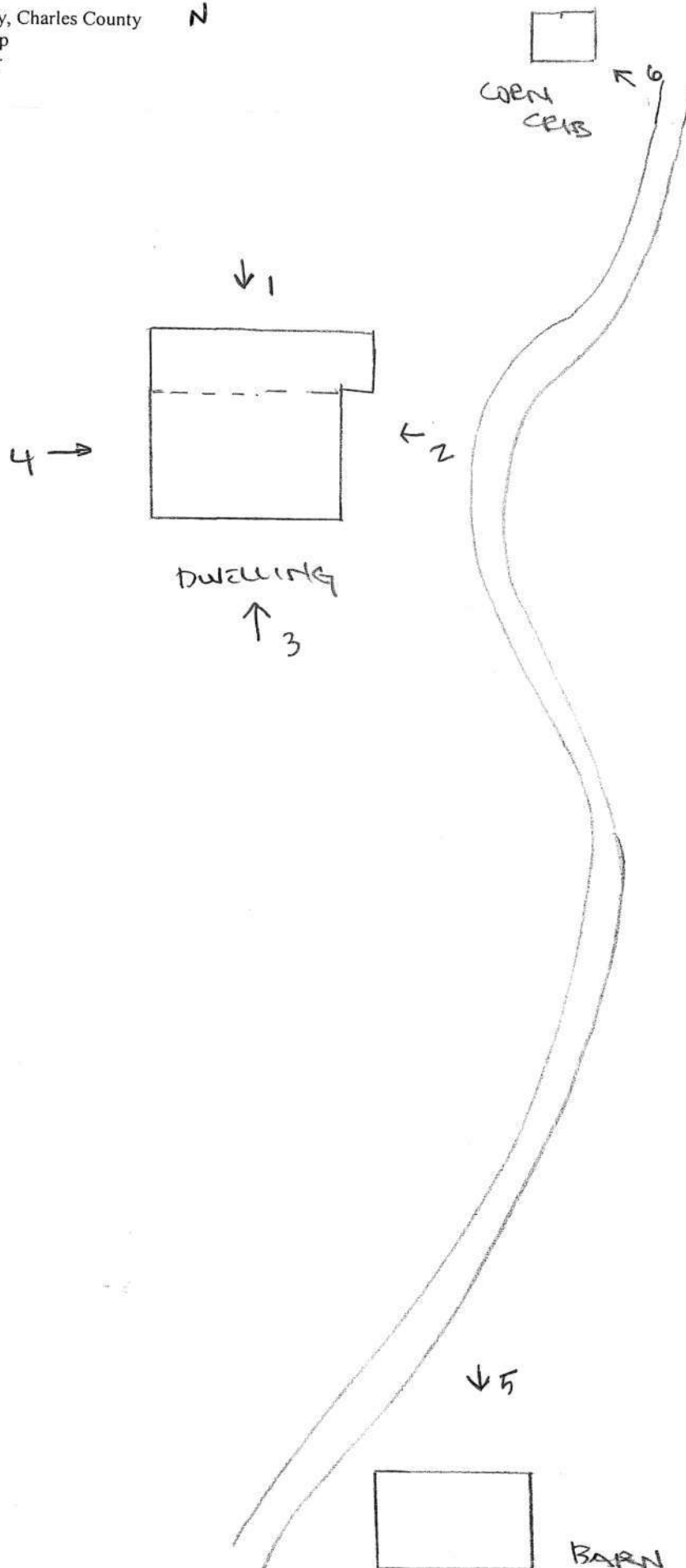
Kirsten Peeler, Kathryn Dixon,
and Chris Heidenrich
R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc.,
Inc.

241 East Fourth Street
Frederick, Maryland

Prepared by:

Date Prepared: 21 March 2005

CH-812
Demarr Property
Demarr Road
White Plains Vicinity, Charles County
Resource Sketch Map
Drawn by: K. Peeler
Not to Scale



CH-812
 Demarr Property
 Demarr Road
 White Plans Vicinity, Charles County
 USGS Quadrangle: Brandywine
 July 1892 Edition of 1890 map
 Scale: 1:62,500



INCORRECT

Duffield
 (Middletown)

White Plains

PROJECT
 AREA

Youngs Switch

Brice

La Plata

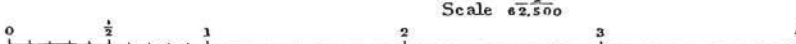
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(Wicomico)

ett, Chief Topographer.
 npson, Chief Geographer in charge.
 by A.E. Murlin.
 eyed in 1890.

U. S. G. S.

PROPERTY



Scale 1:62,500

Contour Interval 20 feet
 Datum is mean Sea level

CH-812
 Demarr Property
 Demarr Road
 White Plains Vicinity, Charles County
 U.S. Quadrangle: Brandywine
 Feb. 1913 (Reprinted 1932) Edition of 1890 map
 Scale: 1:62,500
 Dotted Line: Approximate Location of Project Area

INCORRECT



ENGRAVED OCT. 1912 BY U.S.G.S.

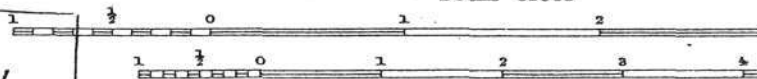
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(Woomiool)

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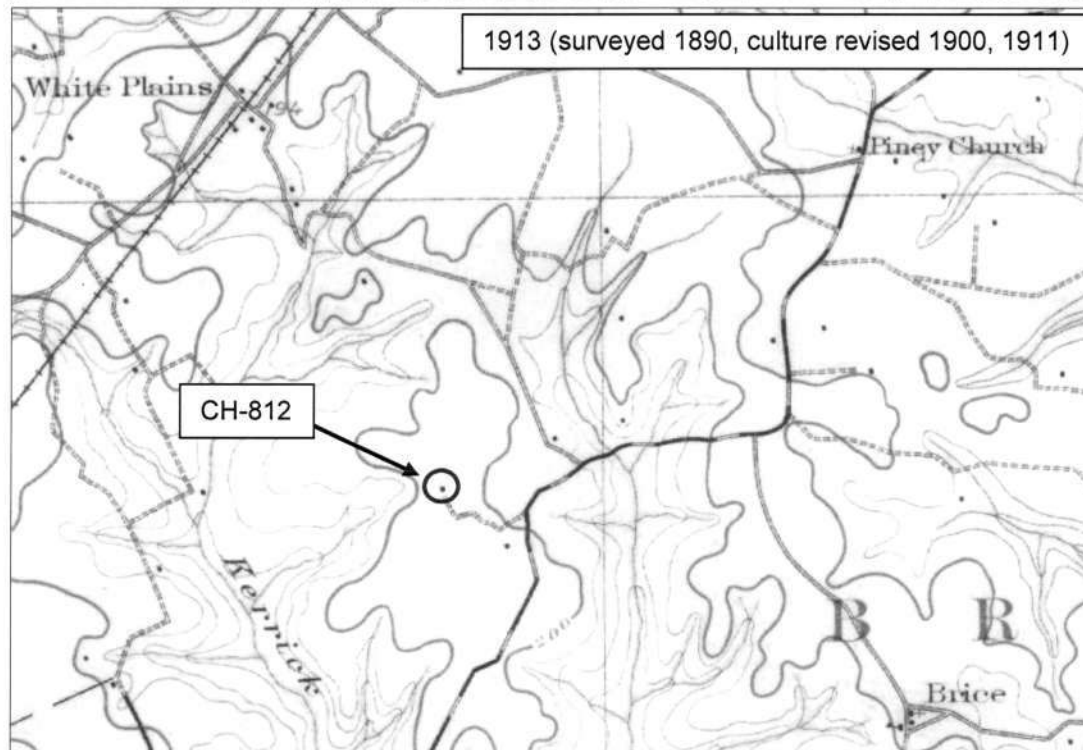
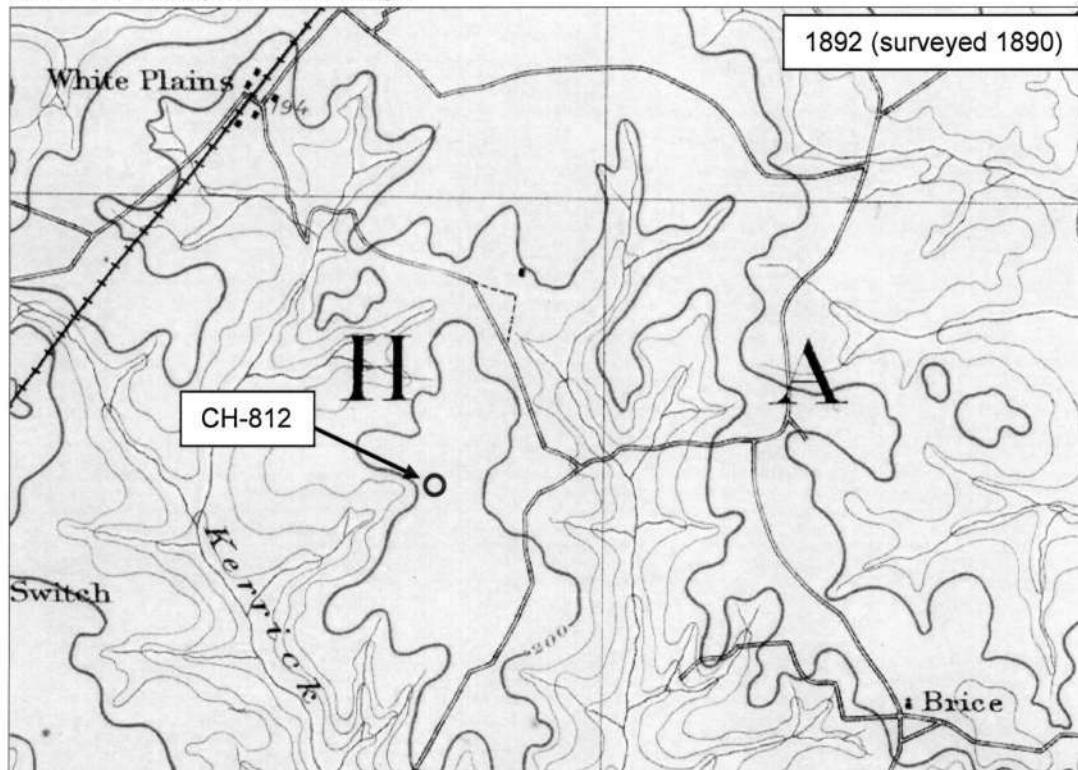
700'
 Henry Gannett, Chief Topographer.
 Gilbert Thompson, Chief Geographer in charge.
 Topography by A.E. Murlin in 1890.
 Culture revised in 1900 and 1911, in cooperation
 with the State of Maryland, by J.D. Forster, J.M. Harris,
 C.D. Clarkson, and R.L. Harrison.

U. S. G. S.
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 Inspection and Editing.

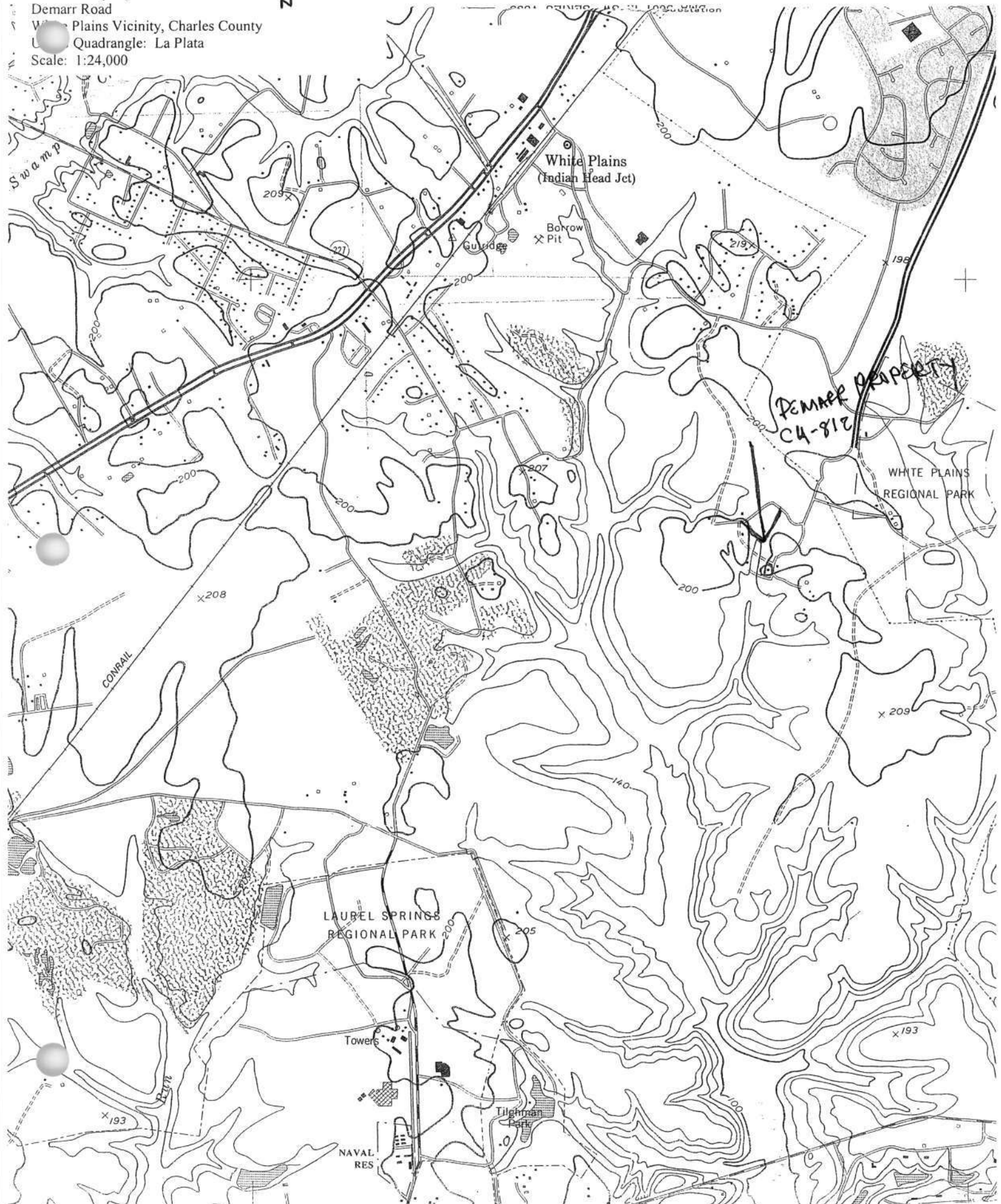


Contour interval 20 feet.
 Datum is mean sea level.

CH-812
Demarr Property
USGS 15' Brandywine Quadrangle



CH-812
Demarr Property
Demarr Road
White Plains Vicinity, Charles County
U.S. Quadrangle: La Plata
Scale: 1:24,000





MH# CH-812

DE HARR PROPERTY

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

U. DIXON

MARCA WOS

MD SAPO

DWELLING, N. ELEN

1 OF 6



MINK # CH-812

DEADLY PROPERTY

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

K. DIXON

MARCH 2005

MD 5400

DWELLING, E. CEN.

2 OF 4



MMMP # CH-812

DEMAKER PROPERTY

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

K. DIXON

MARCH 2005

HD 9400

DWELLING, S ELEM.

3 OF 6



MIND & CH-812

DEHARR PROPERTY

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

K. DIXON

MARCH 2005

MD SAPO

DWELLING, W. ELEY

4 of 6



MIAP # CH 812

DEMARK PROPERTY
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

K. DIXON

MARCH 2005

BAEH, N. 26.1

5 of 6



MIND TO ASK

DEMARK PROPERTY

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

K. DIXON

MARCH 2005

115 S400

CORN CRIB - SE 26N

W OF 6

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Demarr Property Inventory Number ~~000000~~ CH-812

Address: 11040 Demarr, Homestead Road, Charles County - in the vicinity of White Plains

Owner: Demarr, Paul C. & Beverly R.

Tax Parcel Number: 47 Tax Map Number: 24

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no yes Name: Date:

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no yes Name of District:

Is district listed?: X no yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The complex at 11040 Demarr, Homestead Road includes two residential properties. The two-story, three-bays wide house is a modest vernacular expression of the Folk Victorian style. The house has a hipped roof with a center gable at the main elevation. The main roof is constructed with wood shingles. A half-gabled roof extends across the north and east elevations to create a wrap-around porch. The porch roof is supported by squared posts with modest spindlework and its roof is constructed with metal standing seam sheets. The house is sided with clapboard, but the center gable is sided with wood shingles. The second house on the property is a one-and-a-half story vernacular house with minor influences from the Colonial Revival style. The house has a side-gabled roof with two front-gabled dormers. Two side-gabled wings are located at each of the side elevations and a half-gabled roof projects from the main elevation to create a porch. The roofing material for the main section of the house and the porch is a standing seam metal roof and the roofing material for the wings are composition shingles.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: A B X C D

Consideration A B C D E F G None

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

10/26/95
Date

Reviewer, NR Program

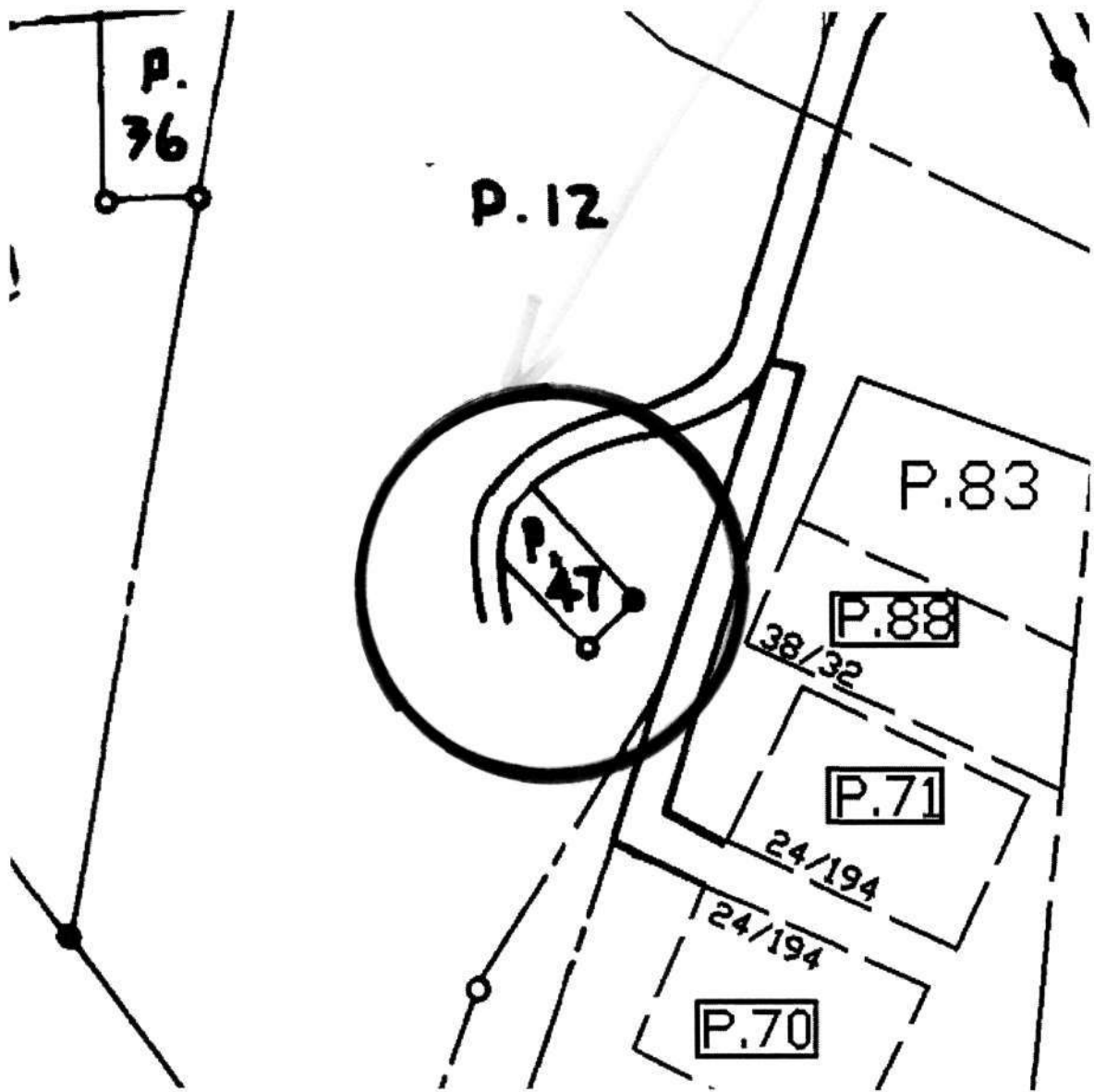
Date

Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. The B&P Railroad's La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to Charles County's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1900-1910, these houses are not eligible for the National Register. While they are an earlier example of the residential development surrounding U.S. 301, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

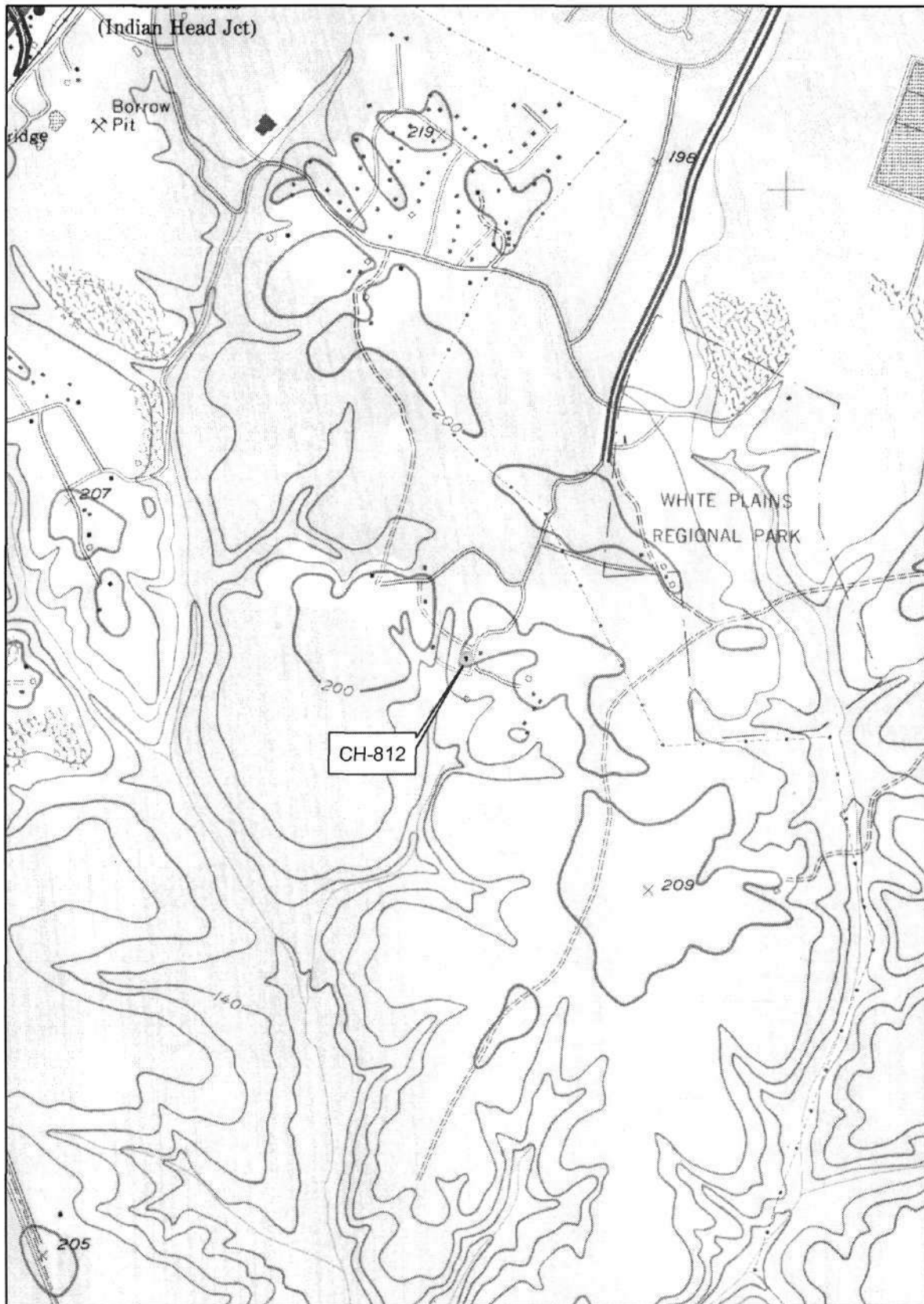
CH-812



Charles County, MD
Tax Map 24

N↑

CH-812
La Plata
Quad





~~CH-812~~ CH-812

11040 Demarr, Homestead Road,
Charles County, MD

Traceries

August, 1999

MD SHPO

View of north elevation

1 of 2



~~CH-812~~ CH-812
11040 Demarr, Homestead Road
Charles County, MO
Traceries
August, 1999
MOSHPO
View of north elevation
2 of 2